

Extract of paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of General Assembly resolution 64/72; paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of General Assembly resolution 66/68; and paragraphs 156, 171, 175, 177 to 188 and 219 of resolution 71/123

General Assembly resolution 64/72

113. *Calls upon* States to take action immediately, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, to implement the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“the Guidelines”)¹ in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, from destructive fishing practices, recognizing the immense importance and value of deep sea ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain;

117. *Also welcomes* the substantial work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, in particular the development and adoption of the Guidelines, and urges States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements to ensure that their actions in sustainably managing deep sea fisheries and implementing paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 119, 120 and 122 to 124 of the present resolution are consistent with the Guidelines;

119. *Considers* that, on the basis of the review carried out in accordance with paragraph 91 of resolution 61/105, further actions in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law are needed to strengthen the implementation of paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, and in this regard calls upon regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries, States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements, and flag States to take the following urgent actions in areas beyond national jurisdiction:

(a) Conduct the assessments called for in paragraph 83 (a) of resolution 61/105, consistent with the Guidelines, and ensure that vessels do not engage in bottom fishing until such assessments have been carried out;

(b) Conduct further marine scientific research and use the best scientific and technical information available to identify where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known to occur or are likely to occur and adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas, Rome, 4–8 February and 25–29 August 2008*, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 881 (FIEP/R881 (Tri)), appendix F.

consistent with the Guidelines, or close such areas to bottom fishing until conservation and management measures have been established, as called for in paragraph 83 (c) of resolution 61/105;

(c) Establish and implement appropriate protocols for the implementation of paragraph 83 (d) of resolution 61/105, including definitions of what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a vulnerable marine ecosystem, in particular threshold levels and indicator species, based on the best available scientific information and consistent with the Guidelines, and taking into account any other conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including those based on the results of assessments carried out pursuant to paragraph 83 (a) of resolution 61/105 and paragraph 119 (a) of the present resolution;

(d) Adopt conservation and management measures, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, on the basis of stock assessments and the best available scientific information, to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks and non-target species, and the rebuilding of depleted stocks, consistent with the Guidelines; and, where scientific information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate, ensure that conservation and management measures are established consistent with the precautionary approach, including measures to ensure that fishing effort, fishing capacity and catch limits, as appropriate, are at levels commensurate with the long-term sustainability of such stocks;

120. *Calls upon* flag States, members of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to adopt and implement measures in accordance with paragraphs 83, 85 and 86 of resolution 61/105, paragraph 119 of the present resolution, and international law, and consistent with the Guidelines, and not to authorize bottom fishing activities until such measures have been adopted and implemented;

121. *Recognizes* the special circumstances and requirements of developing States and the specific challenges they may face in giving full effect to certain technical aspects of the Guidelines, and that implementation by such States of paragraphs 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraph 119 of the present resolution and the Guidelines should proceed in a manner that gives full consideration to section 6 of the Guidelines on special requirements of developing countries;

122. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements to enhance efforts to cooperate to collect and exchange scientific and technical data and information related to the implementation of the measures called for in the relevant paragraphs of resolution 61/105 and the present resolution to manage deep sea fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction and to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing by, inter alia:

(a) Exchanging best practices and developing, where appropriate, regional standards for use by States engaged in bottom fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with a view to examining current scientific and technical protocols and promoting consistent implementation of best practices across fisheries and regions, including assistance to developing States in accomplishing these objectives;

(b) Making publicly available, consistent with domestic law, assessments of whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the measures adopted in accordance with paragraphs 83, 85 and 86, as appropriate, of resolution 61/105, and promoting the inclusion of this information on the websites of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements;

(c) Submission by flag States to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of a list of those vessels flying their flag authorized to conduct bottom fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the measures they have adopted to give effect to the relevant paragraphs of resolution 61/105 and the present resolution;

(d) Sharing information on vessels that are engaged in bottom fishing operations in areas beyond national jurisdiction where the flag State responsible for such vessels cannot be determined;

123. *Encourages* States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements to develop or strengthen data collection standards, procedures and protocols and research programmes for identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems, assessment of impacts on such ecosystems, and assessment of fishing activities on target and non-target species, consistent with the Guidelines and in accordance with the Convention, including Part XIII thereof;

124. *Calls upon* relevant States to cooperate and make efforts to establish, as appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements competent to regulate bottom fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction where there are no such organizations or arrangements;

General Assembly resolution 66/68

121. *Calls upon* States to take action immediately, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, to continue implementing the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“the Guidelines”)² in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, from destructive fishing practices,

² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, Rome, 4–8 February and 25–29 August 2008*, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 881 (FIEP/R881 (Tri)), appendix F.

recognizing the immense importance and value of deep-sea ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain;

126. *Also welcomes* the substantial ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and urges States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that their actions in sustainably managing deep-sea fisheries and implementing paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 119, 120 and 122 to 124 of resolution 64/72 are consistent with the Guidelines;

129. *Considers*, on the basis of the review carried out in accordance with paragraph 129 of resolution 64/72, that despite the progress made, the urgent actions called for in the relevant paragraphs of resolutions 61/105 and 64/72 have not been fully implemented in all cases, and in this regard further actions in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law and consistent with the Guidelines are needed to strengthen the continued implementation, and in this regard calls upon States, through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries, States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements and flag States to take the following urgent actions regarding bottom fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction:

(a) To strengthen procedures for carrying out assessments to take into account individual, collective and cumulative impacts, and for making the assessments publicly available, recognizing that doing so can support transparency and capacity-building globally;

(b) To establish and improve procedures to ensure that assessments are updated when new conditions or information so require;

(c) To establish and improve procedures for evaluating, reviewing and revising, on a regular basis, assessments based on best available science and management measures;

(d) To establish mechanisms to promote and enhance compliance with applicable measures related to the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, adopted in accordance with international law;

130. *Notes* that not all impact assessments have been made publicly available, and calls upon States, consistent with domestic law, and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to publish all assessments without delay;

132. *Encourages*, in this regard, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage bottom fisheries, States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements and flag States to consider the results available from marine scientific research, including those obtained from seabed mapping programmes concerning the identification of areas containing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and to adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing on such ecosystems, consistent with the Guidelines, or to close such areas to bottom fishing until such conservation and

management measures are adopted, as well as to continue to undertake further marine scientific research, for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with international law as reflected in Part XIII of the Convention;

133. *Encourages* States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to undertake further research on deep-sea species and ecosystems and assessments of fishing activities on target and non-target species, consistent with the Guidelines and in accordance with the Convention, including Part XIII of the Convention;

134. *Recognizes in particular* the special circumstances and requirements of developing States and the specific challenges they may face in giving full effect to certain technical aspects of the Guidelines, and that implementation by such States of paragraphs 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraph 119 of resolution 64/72, paragraph 129 of the present resolution and the Guidelines should proceed in a manner that gives full consideration to section 6 of the Guidelines on special requirements of developing countries;

General Assembly resolution 71/123

156. Invites States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to manage deep-sea fisheries to share experiences and good practices, for example by considering organizing joint meetings, where appropriate;

171. *Calls upon* States to take action immediately, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, to continue to implement the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (the Guidelines) in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, from fishing practices with significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, recognizing the immense importance and value of deep-sea ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain as documented in the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment;

175. Urges States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that their actions in sustainably managing deep-sea fisheries and implementing paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 are consistent with the Guidelines;

177. Notes in this regard the adoption by coastal States of conservation measures regarding their continental shelf to address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, as well as their efforts to ensure compliance with those measures;

178. Reiterates the importance of marine scientific research for the sustainable management of deep-sea fishery resources, including target fish stocks and non-target species, and to protect the marine ecosystem including, inter alia, the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

179. Welcomes the important progress made by States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and those States participating in negotiations to establish a regional fisheries management organization or arrangement competent to regulate bottom fisheries to implement paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, but notes with concern the uneven implementation of those provisions and that, in particular, bottom fishing continues to occur in certain areas beyond national jurisdiction without an impact assessment having been completed in the 10 years since the adoption of resolution 61/105, in which the General Assembly called for such assessments to be undertaken by 31 December 2008;

180. Calls upon, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate deep-sea fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to take, in particular, the following urgent actions regarding bottom fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction:

(a) To use, as applicable, the full set of criteria in the Guidelines to identify where vulnerable marine ecosystems occur or are likely to occur as well as for assessing significant adverse impacts;

(b) To ensure that impact assessments, including for cumulative impacts of activities covered by the assessment, are conducted consistent with the Guidelines, particularly paragraph 47 thereof, are reviewed periodically and are revised thereafter whenever a substantial change in the fishery has occurred or there is relevant new information, and that, where such impact assessments have not been undertaken, they are carried out as a priority before authorizing bottom fishing activities;

(c) To ensure that conservation and management measures adopted by States and regional fisheries organizations and arrangements are based on and updated on the basis of the best available scientific information, noting in particular the need to improve effective implementation of thresholds and move-on rules;

181. Recognizes that different types of marine scientific research, such as, inter alia, seabed mapping, mapping of vulnerable marine ecosystems based on information from the fishing fleet, on-site camera observations from remote vehicles, benthic ecosystem modelling, comparative benthic studies and predictive modelling have resulted in identification of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known or are likely to occur and in the adoption of conservation and management measures to prevent

significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems, including the closure of areas to bottom fishing in accordance with paragraph 119 (b) of resolution 64/72;

182. Encourages, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage bottom fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements, to consider the results available from different types of marine scientific research, including, as appropriate, those listed in paragraph 181 above, concerning the identification of areas containing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and to adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing on such ecosystems, consistent with the Guidelines, or to close such areas to bottom fishing until such conservation and management measures are adopted, as well as to continue to undertake further marine scientific research, for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with international law, as reflected in Part XIII of the Convention;

183. Encourages, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage deep-sea fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to carry out further marine scientific research to address the remaining knowledge gaps, in particular with regard to fish stock assessments, and to base and update conservation and management measures on the best available scientific information, in accordance with international law, as reflected in Part XIII of the Convention;

184. Notes with concern that vulnerable marine ecosystems may also be impacted by human activities other than bottom fishing, and encourages in this regard States and competent international organizations to consider taking action to address such impacts;

185. Calls upon States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to take into account the potential impacts of climate change and ocean acidification in taking measures to manage deep-sea fisheries and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems;

186. Calls upon States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate deep-sea fisheries, to adopt conservation and management measures, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, on the basis of the best available scientific information, including stock assessments, to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and non-target species and the rebuilding of depleted stocks, consistent with the Guidelines and, where scientific information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate, to ensure that conservation and management measures are established consistent with the precautionary approach, in particular with regard to vulnerable, threatened or endangered species;

187. Recognizes, in particular, the special circumstances and requirements of developing States and the specific challenges they may face in giving full effect to certain technical aspects of the Guidelines, and that implementation by such States of paragraphs

83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraph 119 of resolution 64/72, paragraph 129 of resolution 66/68 and paragraph 180 of the present resolution and the Guidelines should proceed in a manner that gives full consideration to section 6 of the Guidelines on the special requirements of developing countries;

188. Recognizes the need to enhance the capacity of developing States, including with regard to stock assessments, impact assessments, scientific and technical knowledge and training, and encourages States to provide technical and financial support to developing countries to address their special requirements and challenges in implementing the Guidelines;

219. *Encourages* States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant bodies to assist developing States in the implementation of the actions called for in paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution [61/105](#), paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution [64/72](#) and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution [66/68](#), and paragraphs 156, 171, 175 and 177 to 188 of the present resolution;